



The Ames Intelligencer

Published by Ames Heritage Association, Inc.
Member of American Association for Local & State History

Historic Preservation Comes to Ames

by Sharon Wirth

Interest in retaining some of the buildings with roots in the city's past for future generations has stimulated work on a historic preservation ordinance for the City of Ames. The ordinance presents the opportunity to take an important step towards preserving the historical and architectural heritage of Ames.

Protecting and preserving landmarks and architecturally significant structures will contribute to the community's sense and understanding of its history, as well as ensure that the cultural and historical heritage of Ames can be imparted to present and future generations through a visual medium.

The ordinance was drafted by a study committee consisting of representatives from the Old Town Neighborhood Association, Ames Homebuilders Association, Rental Property Owners Association, and Ames Heritage Association, as well as city staff members Brian O'Connell and Steve Schainker. Ames Heritage Association representatives serving on the committee are Lee Himan, Ruth Hamilton, and Sharon Wirth.

Because of the wide-ranging interests of the study group members, the ordinance drafted offers flexibility by allowing for change and growth in a controlled and planned manner, while protecting historical structures and neighborhoods.

A historic preservation ordinance



is a form of local land-use regulation enacted to protect historically and culturally significant buildings, structures, sites, and spaces. More than 900 ordinances have been enacted throughout the U.S. since Charleston, South Carolina initiated the first ordinance in 1931. In Iowa, 18 cities, five counties, and the Amana Colonies Land Use District have preservation ordinances or resolutions. At least four other cities in Iowa are currently considering historical ordinances.

This ordinance will protect historical and cultural resources by regulating demolition, alteration, and new construction. It does not prevent any of these processes. The ordinance proposed for Ames will create a Historic Preservation Commission which will include representatives from each desig-

nated historic district. Commission members will be local citizens appointed by the mayor.

Following designation of an area as a historic district, the commission will recommend design guidelines for that district. Design guidelines, approved by the Ames City Council, ensure that new construction or alterations within a historic district will be architecturally compatible with the historic structures around them. They will guide property owners to build upon a neighborhood's existing strengths to improve an area to the benefit of the entire city. A review process is specified for obtaining a demolition permit.

The Historic Preservation Commission will review applications and issue a "Certificate of

Continued on page 2

Appropriateness" for construction or demolition activities within a designated historic district. This certificate will be needed before a building permit is granted.

Ames has a rich heritage and, up to now, the protection and continued existence of the physical expressions of this heritage have been left to chance. These buildings need the application of special planning tools to ensure their continued well-being. Throughout the country, cities and towns are enacting historic preservation ordinances to do just that.

These preservation activities have revitalized old commercial and residential areas, improving their appearance and creating a demand for properties within historic districts. Adopting a Historic Preservation Ordinance will be a positive step toward preserving Ames' heritage, as well as contributing to the beauty and livability of the entire community. For more information about this ordinance, contact the Ames Planning and Housing Department at 239-5180.

Update: On March 8, the Ames City Council held a public hearing and first reading of the historic preservation ordinance. A second reading was held on March 29. The votes for both readings were 4-2 in favor of the ordinance. The next reading of the ordinance is scheduled for April 12 at the City Council meeting. Amendments to the ordinance may be considered at a future date. Passage of the ordinance will allow establishment of the Historic Preservation Commission. This commission will consider requests for district designation. A district application is on file requesting that a portion of the Old Town Neighborhood be designated a historic district.

"The Weekly (Ames) *Intelligencer*, a live paper, was first published by Mr. A. McFadden, an experienced newspaper publisher and editor. Its first issue was about April, 1868—nineteen years ago—and is still being published. J.E. Duncan, Esq., is editor and proprietor, and gets up an excellent paper."

From the description of Ames' first newspaper in William G. Allen's History of Story County written in 1887.

Bauge Cabin Project Moves Along

In November 1987, members of the Bauge cabin committee, representing the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board, inspected the Bauge cabin northeast of Huxley. The current owners of the log cabin, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Steensland of Huxley, have agreed to assist the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board in preserving the cabin as a piece of local history.

The log cabin, constructed in the mid-1860s is currently covered with wooden siding, and a kitchen has been added to the north side of the cabin. The building measures 24 feet in length, 16 feet in width, and 16 feet in height, including the attic above the main level of the cabin. Inspection of the logs under the siding indicated the building to be in good structural condition and suitable for moving.

On Saturday, February 13, Everett Ritland of Ames, a friend of the Steenslands, and Cele Burnett, naturalist with the Story County Conservation Board, visited the Bauge cabin with Ron Holland of Forest City, a professional structural mover, to investigate the feasibility and costs involved in moving the log cabin from its present site to its proposed site at McFarland Park during the early part of the summer.

As planned, the cabin will be moved along Highways 69 and 30, Dayton Road, and gravel roads to its intended site at the far northeast corner of McFarland Park. This route will entail notifying the Iowa Department of Transportation, city and county officials, and utility and railroad officials. Ron Holland sees no problems in obtaining these permits for historical and conservation purposes.

Prior to moving, the kitchen addition and the chimney will have to be removed from the cabin, and a foundation will have to be prepared at the McFarland Park site at a cost of approximately \$1,400. We expect to receive help for site preparations from an industrial education class at Ames High School, in addition to Ames Heritage Association and Story County Conservation Board volunteers and staff.

Ron Holland has submitted an

estimate of \$1,500 for moving the cabin, including his equipment needs and his time for set-up, moving, and set-down. Ron's estimate is less than half the actual cost of the move, because he is anxious to help this historical and conservation effort.

The next step in the process includes discussion between the Story County Conservation Board and the Ames Heritage Association concerning a number of responsibilities and issues, including:

- 1) fundraising for moving costs;
- 2) foundation preparation at McFarland Park;
- 3) removal of the kitchen addition and the chimney;
- 4) interior and exterior restoration on-site;
- 5) long-term maintenance;
- 6) insurance;
- 7) long-term management goals and objectives;
- 8) respective commitments and responsibilities for each of the sponsoring agencies; and
- 9) expected schedule or timetable for the project.

The Ames Heritage Association is currently in the process of asking for donations to raise funds for the move and site preparation. If you would like to contribute to this fundraising effort, please make checks payable to the Ames Heritage Association and mail to Treasurer Jan Halverson, P.O. Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Relocating the historical Bauge cabin to McFarland Park will provide a focus for programs sponsored by the Story County Conservation Board and the Ames Heritage Association for county schools and the general public, while providing a permanent site for this piece of local history that might otherwise be lost forever.

Please join us!

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Elden Bauge of Ames; Mrs. Helen Koch of Oswego, Illinois; Mrs. Betty McHugh of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Jay Simser of Ames; and First National Bank of Ames for contributions towards the Bauge cabin project!



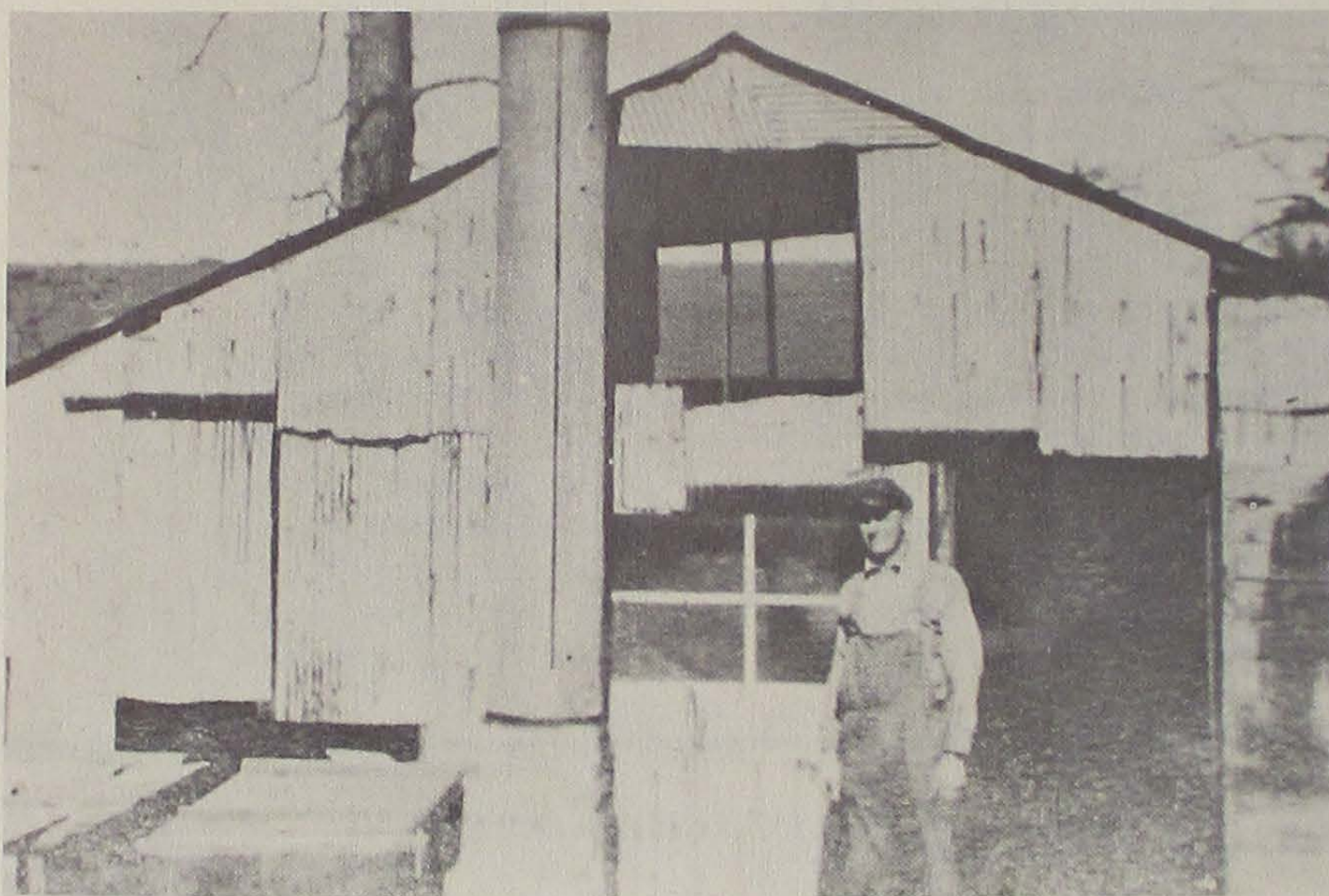
Nils and Synneva Bauge were natives of Norway who settled on the farm northeast of Huxley in 1866. They were the first of the Bauge family to occupy the log cabin.



The sons and daughter of Nils and Synneva Bauge pose in this formal family portrait taken about 1880. Front row, left to right: Axel and Joe; second row, left to right: Lars, Marie, and Thor; third row, left to right, Ole and Nels; top row, John. Ole and his son Jennings operated the Bauge Shoe Store in Ames for many years. Lars was the father of Elden Bauge of Ames, the last Bauge resident of the family cabin and youngest of the Lars Bauge family. Marie Bauge lived on 9th Street in Ames until her death at 96 years of age in March 1963.



This photograph shows the Lars Bauge family in 1918. Front row, left to right, Abner; Anna (Fjelland) Bauge, wife of Lars; Lars, holding Elden on his lap; Nels, holding Albert on his lap; Nellie (Bauge) Bjelland; and Marion. Back row, left to right: Theodore; Rachel (Bauge) Anderson; Arthur; Leda (Bauge) Barrie; Randa (Bauge) Olson; Alma (Bauge) Severeid; and Alice (Bauge) Richter.



Lars Bauge operated this sorghum mill located among the trees not far to the northwest of the log home. Lars' family resided on the original Bauge farm northeast of Huxley. Lars farmed 80 acres, did carpentry work, and processed his neighbors' sorghum.

Photographs courtesy of Elden and Marguerite Bauge of Ames and Leda (Bauge) Barrie of Inglewood, California.

The Bauge family cabin still stands on its site northeast of Huxley on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Steensland.



The following news item appeared on the front page of the December 1, 1913 issue of the *Ames Evening Times*. Clint Adams' many friends of today will be interested to know about Clint's adventure and how he was found safe and sound on that December night more than 74 years ago.

FATHER HAS LONG SEARCH FOR SON

Jay Adams' Boy Thought Lost But is Found at Church Social

"Clinton, the eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Adams, disappeared off the face of the earth for three hours Friday evening, so far as his parents' knowledge of his whereabouts was concerned, but was finally located at a social at the Baptist Church.

"It seems that Clinton takes milk to the neighbor's house and as usual was dispatched with a pail of milk that evening. He left the house early, and nothing more was heard from him. About eight o'clock, Mrs. Adams remarked that it was time for him to be home. Mr. Adams did not think much about it as the boy had stopped at the skating rink before - or had been delayed some other place. But when a half hour more had passed, Mr. Adams became worried.

"He left the house and went first to the new skating rink, but the boy was not there. He then went down town and looked up and down Main Street. He inquired at the Princess and at other places along the street,

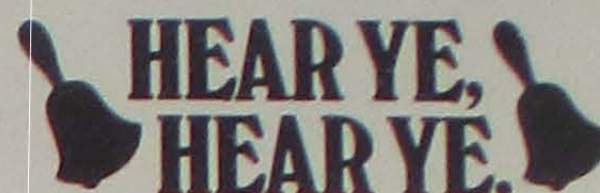
but no one had seen the lad. The search was continued, but the boy was not to be located until almost eleven o'clock when he was found at the Baptist Church where the Y.P.C.E. Society was holding a social.

"It seems that after he had delivered the milk, he was returning home when he met a small friend who was going to the social and invited Clinton to go with him. After some persuasion, Clinton decided to do so, and after he arrived, he had such a good time, he remained for everything, including the refreshments."



Shelly and Paul Boyd Recognized

At the March meeting, the AHA Board of Directors recognized Shelly Boyd and her son Paul of Ames for their fundraising project on behalf of the restoration and maintenance of Hoggatt School on the Meeker School grounds in Ames. A total of \$230 was donated by Shelly and Paul as the result of their project to make and sell Christmas tree ornaments symbolizing Hoggatt School, school bells, and classroom slates. Thanks, Shelly and Paul!



Election Results Announced

At the annual membership meeting held in January, the following individuals were elected as officers of the Board of Directors:

President: Jack Adams
Vice-President: Don Faas
Secretary: Sharon Wirth
Treasurer: Jan Halverson

Individuals serving on the Board of Directors include:

Terms to expire 1989:

Jack Adams
Jan Halverson
Ruth Hamilton
Marvin Miller
Mary Peale Schofield

Terms to expire 1990:

Jim Duea
Rodney Fox
Lee Himan
Jay Cole Simser
Sharon Wirth

Terms to expire 1991:

Farwell Brown
Cele Burnett
Don Faas
Polly Gossard
Suzanne Kelly

Please enroll me as a 1988 member of the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Type of Membership:

_____ Regular (\$5.00)

_____ Business and Organization (\$25.00 or more)

_____ Sustaining (\$100)

_____ Life (\$1000)

Please make checks payable to the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION and mail to
Treasurer Jan Halverson, P.O. Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Thank you!



During meetings of the Ames Heritage Association since the last newsletter, members:

- received treasurer reports from Jan Halverson, indicating a balance of \$916.98 as of March 24, 1988, including \$190 in donations for the Bauge cabin project;
- received membership reports, indicating 259 members as of February 9, 1988;
- appointed a committee (Lee Himan, Farwell Brown, and Ruth Hamilton) to study a preliminary agreement to transfer ownership of Hoggatt School to the Ames Community Schools, while retaining management, maintenance, and programming responsibilities;
- hosted the annual meeting with the program presented by Don Faas as The Medicine Man, as well as displays of Ames memorabilia, models of the Depot building, and photographs of historical architecture in the Old Town Neighborhood;
- received reports and took action concerning the Bauge cabin project (see information else-

where);

- discussed membership promotions for Ames Community Schools teachers and students, as well as other promotional campaigns (action tabled until a future meeting);
- received a report concerning AHA participation at the annual Salute to the Arts event at the Scheman Center in March;
- recognized Shelly and Paul Boyd of Ames for their donation to Hoggatt School (see information elsewhere);
- received a report concerning the project to place a memorial plaque at the Billy Sunday family cemetery in Ames (action tabled until a future meeting);
- discussed changes in the monthly meeting date (NOTE: Monthly meetings of the Ames Heritage Association will be held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May); and
- received an update from Sharon Wirth concerning the proposed local historic preservation ordinance (see information elsewhere).

Ames Heritage Association Officers

President Jack Adams
Box 852, Ames
292-1342

Vice-President Don Faas
4419 Ross Road, Ames
292-1613

Secretary Sharon Wirth
803 Burnett, Ames
233-2415

Treasurer Jan Halverson
Route 1, Kelley 50134
685-3175

Editor Cele Burnett
1214 Curtiss, Ames
232-2791

Advisor Rodney Fox
1801 - 20th Street, Ames
232-6495

Ames Official Historian
Farwell T. Brown
1801 - 20th Street, Ames
232-9444

The Ames Heritage Association meets the second Thursday of every month (September through May) at 7:30 p.m. at the Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the second Thursday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The *Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year - winter, spring, and fall.

The Ames Intelligencer
Ames Heritage Association
P.O. Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 122
Ames, Iowa 50010